

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP

SUBJECT: RED:ESCAP:COURTESY CALL ON EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS

1. SUMMARY: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS SEEKS AN INVITATION TO WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MY COURTESY CALL SEPTEMBER 9TH ON ESCAP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY J.B.P. MARAMIS, WITH DEPUTY PERMREP ROCKE, I LEARNED AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, THAT MARAMIS WOULD LIKE TO BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER. HE WILL SPEND FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER AT UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN NEW YORK AND COULD THEN VISIT WASHINGTON EN ROUTE BACK TO BANGKOK VIA LARAMIE, WYOMING, WHERE HIS SON STUDIES COMPUTER SYSTEMS.

3. MARAMIS MENTIONED THAT HE HAD KNOWN ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM WHEN HE WAS LAST STATIONED AT UN HEADQUARTERS AS INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVE.

4. MARAMIS HAD READ SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH TO UNGA SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY ITS GENEROUS, NON-CONTENTIOUS TONE AND THE MULTITUDE OF PROPOSALS OFFERED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. LATER IN OUR CONVERSATION, MARAMIS INDICATED THAT, IF INVITED TO WASHINGTON, HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF LINKING ESCAP REGIONAL HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS IN FOOD, ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WITH THE GLOBAL PROJECTS

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DESCRIBED IN THE SECRETARY' SPEECH.

5. MARAMIS ALSO REVEALED MANIFOLD FRUSTRATIONS OF HIS JOB IN HAVING TO CONTEND WITH "EMPIRE-BUILDING" UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND WITH REGIONAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE EITHER UNABLE BUREAUCRATICALLY OR UNWILLING POLITICALLY TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ESCAP PROJECTS THEY HAD ORIGINALLY ENDORSED, IF NOT SUGGESTED. CUMBERSOME UN FUNDING AND PERSONNEL PROCEDURES WERE ALSO HEAD-ACHES. MARAMIS CLEARLY INDICATED HE FEELS UNDER PRESSURE TO PRODUCE VIABLE ESCAP PROJECTS BY THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION.

6. WE CAUTIONED MARAMIS ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST "DOUBLE FUNDING" UN PROJECTS BUT INDICATED SPECIFIC, DETAILED REQUESTS WOULD STILL BE RECEIVED WITH INTEREST IN WASHINGTON.

7. COMMENT: I CANNOT JUDGE THE MERIT OF MARAMIS' PROJECTS, BUT I BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE SHOWN THE COURTESY OF AN INVITATION TO LUNCH IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS HIS PROPOSALS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. I BELIEVE OTHER UN COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES HAVE BEEN SO INVITED IN THE PAST.
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